



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 675**

*January Session, 2005*

Substitute Senate Bill No. 359

*Senate, May 4, 2005*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND DUTIES OF THE  
CONNECTICUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 32-710 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut Rural Development Council  
4 in accordance with the Federal Farm Security and Rural Investment  
5 Act of 2002, as amended from time to time.

6 (b) The Connecticut Rural Development Council shall be composed  
7 of the requisite board and membership required under the Federal  
8 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended from  
9 time to time.

10 (c) The Connecticut Rural Development Council shall: [monitor,]

11 (1) Monitor, report and comment on policies and programs that

12 address or fail to address the following goals with respect to rural  
 13 areas: [(1)] (A) Coordination of state, federal, tribal and private sector  
 14 relationships to increase efficiency, eliminate duplication, identify gaps  
 15 and promote the interests of rural areas, and [(2)] (B) promotion of the  
 16 fiscal autonomy of rural municipalities;

17 (2) Facilitate beneficial partnerships for the state's rural residents by  
 18 coordinating agricultural interests with public health and educational  
 19 opportunities that lead to collaborative efforts and programs to  
 20 positively impact rural communities;

21 (3) Research government policies for rural areas;

22 (4) Assist community groups with state and federal grant  
 23 applications;

24 (5) Provide technical assistance to rural communities concerning  
 25 asset-based community development and collaboration; and

26 (6) Review potential funding opportunities for rural initiatives from  
 27 government, private sector and nonprofit sources.

28 (d) The Connecticut Rural Development Council may use such  
 29 funds as may be available from government, private sector and  
 30 nonprofit sources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2005	32-710

**CE**            *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

**APP**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill codifies duties of the Connecticut Rural Development Council and has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. Current funding for the organization is provided by the federal government and by in kind services by the state through the Northwestern CT Community-Technical College.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB 359

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND DUTIES OF THE  
CONNECTICUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the Connecticut Rural Development Council's duties. The council is open to people and organizations interested in rural development, and its board consists of representatives from government agencies, tribal governments, business groups, and other organizations committed to rural development. It currently monitors, reports, and comments on the extent to which policies and programs encourage public and private organizations to coordinate the way they address rural issues.

Under the bill, the council must research public policies for rural areas, help community groups access state and federal grants, and provide technical assistance to rural communities on collaboration and asset-based community development. The council must also coordinate rural interests with public health and educational opportunities in ways that foster collaboration and benefit rural communities. Lastly, it must review potential public, private, and nonprofit funding sources and may use their funds to fulfill its duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 21      Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44      Nay 5